

was no appreciable increase in the number of patients, whereas the expenditure on medicine has gone up by 50 per cent. Will the Government be pleased to give the information as to what the increase of expenditure in the Jail Hospital is due to?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The annual indent for the year 1101 was an exceptionally short one as evidenced by the figures for cost of medicines when compared with the cost of the previous year. So all supply was exhausted before the close of the year, and when the Civil Surgeon sent his indent again, he put in a demand for a greater supply, stating that in the previous year he had to purchase medicines locally on account of the early exhaustion of the annual supply, and consequently, for the first time in the account, medicines such as quinine, epsom salt, glycerine, castor oil, etc., which used to be bought separately, were entered under this head. Since then, the system of getting the Jail Department to pay the cost of medicines has ceased. This was not included in the accounts of the previous years. I came to find it out, and I said that these amounts also should be included in the accounts of the department. So that also was included for the first time in the accounts of 1101. These are the reasons which contribute to the increase in expenditure.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to say how much increase there was under this particular head?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I want notice.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is the increase in expenditure due to any increase in prices?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir.

The Conference of Registrars.

483. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there was any conference of Registrars in Cochin;

(b) if so, whether the conference is being held at present;

(c) if not, when it was discontinued; and

(d) why?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—

(a) Yes. In 1099.

(b) No.

(c) In 1100.

(d) The necessity for it was not felt afterwards.

The Co-operative Society Bank, Irinjalakkuda.

484. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—